

COLOMBIA



**ITEM 1 AND 2
EXECUTIVE BOARD UNICEF – ANNUAL SESSION
INTERVENTION PERMANT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLOMBIA
GUILLERMO FERNANDEZ DE SOTO
PERMANENT MISSION OF COLOMBIA TO UN
SEGMENTO DE APERTURA - JUNTA EJECUTIVA – UNICEF**

Nueva York, 29 de junio de 2020

Verificar contra el discurso pronunciado

Madam President, Madam Executive Director and members of the Executive Board:

I am grateful for the convening of this session in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic that changes our lives forever and demands leadership a good leadership international cooperation, as never before.

During this time, the need for the actions of the United Nations Development System to be aligned with the priorities of the Governments has become evident.

Colombia has requested to focus the work on two main areas:

- (i) Humanitarian assistance for people in the most vulnerable situations;
- (ii) Actions for economic recovery after overcoming the crisis.

The response has been designed under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator and its implementation falls on a core UN group.

In this way, the comparative advantages of each agency are recognized, and efficiencies are generated.

UNICEF's support for Colombia deserves recognition, especially for the WASH initiative that has benefited more than 86,000 people.

I want to express my gratitude, Mrs. President of the Executive Board and Mrs. Executive Director and for all the activities that UNICEF has been doing in Colombia during this emergency.

I also highlight the efforts to promote gender equality in education; the support for the adoption of policies aimed at elimination of child marriage and early unions; the support for migrants; among others.

Regarding the Midterm Review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan and the Annual Report of the Executive Director, I wish to mention the need to focus efforts on the following points:

1. Deepen the development of mechanisms to measure child poverty and equity in the social sector spending.
2. Strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus in field interventions.
3. Expand the donor base and strengthen partnerships with the private sector, to reduce dependency on traditional sources.
4. Intensify evaluation efforts.

I would like to conclude by reiterating that Colombia is firmly committed to the reform of the United Nations Development System.

The activities of the System should be increasingly articulated and efficient.

The protection and empowerment of children and adolescents are our priority. Thank you.